

Lost Children Project

www.thelostchildren.uk



Joseph Driscoll of 20 Stratford Ave,
Brunswick Road, Balsall Heath

Joseph's father was an Insurance Agent in Birkenhead whose wife died in 1884, leaving him with young children. By 1891 he had remarried and moved to Balsall Heath. At this point two children from his first

marriage, Joseph and Mary, were living there with them as well as a new son, Walter. However, the family were not happy with Joseph who was admitted to the Middlemore Homes in 1893 at the age of 15, which in itself was unusual as he could at that age get a job in Birmingham. All his siblings stayed in England.

The report reads, "Joseph has been a very bad boy for a very long time. Sleeps out continually, won't stay in a situation, prefers to lounge around the Railway Station. Earns, as he tells his mother, one shilling and sixpence a day generally.It is more likely three shillings. Goes to the theatre most evenings. Just been locked up for breaking into coffee shop, corner of Hill St and Hinkley St."

"Father paying five shillings and sixpence per week. Two shillings and ten pence towards emigration cost."

Joseph was emigrated to Canada in 1893 just at the time Middlemore was moving the focus of his scheme to the Maritime states. Joseph, however, was one of a small party of six who arrived in Quebec. He did not apparently have subsequent inspection visits. Alas, there is no information about his later life. Back in England, the family had moved to 1, Melrose Avenue, off Woodfield Road, by 1901 and then his father died in 1903. In 1911 his step-mother was running a Fried Fish shop on the Pershore Road.

V H

Down Memory Lane with Dennis John



Young Dennis John.

Jukes

The family of a real original heathan who will be 90 years of age in April, asked if we at the history society could help with recalling memories of his youth growing up in Balsall Heath? We said yes in a heartbeat. Dennis John Jukes was born in 1931 to Sarah and William, a brother for Derrick, Donald, and Doreen, who was his senior by 7 years; the family has it that she raised Dennis.

We do not have the information to say where this picture was taken. It looks like the work of a Photography Studio, and Balsall Heath had its

Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

FEBRUARY 2021



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Next meeting.

The Committee has decided that we should aim to restart monthly meetings from June this year, following the guidelines for easing restrictions. However, there may well be some change to the government's timetable so we are proposing to make the meeting at the end of June an outdoor one, visiting a place of interest. More news to follow next month.

Membership of the Society costs £10 annually and can be bought via the Donate button on the Society website. Thank you to all who have chosen to subscribe this year in spite of the lack of meetings. We hope to hold our AGM in July as usual.

fair share of such studios.

The family home was at No 7 Acacia Terrace Clifton Rd. As a postal address that became 7/199 Clifton. This was not too far from the school where Dennis began his formal education. Clifton Rd then Dennis Rd in 1935, just across Ladypool Rd.

Dennis Road, now Anderton Park Primary was designed to accommodate 1020 pupils opening in 1896 and was successful from the very start. The inspector's report of 1897 commended progress, noting that 'for beauty of design and convenience of working the school is worthy of the highest admiration'. The buildings have since been listed grade II. It would seem that researching Dennis John's life here is making us all more aware of our heritage.



Brushwork Class

Chemistry Class studying the mineral Salt.

Dennis left school at the age of 14 years and became an apprentice Joiner for Parsons & Morrin 133 Belgrave Road. This was something that would lead to his owning his own business and come in handy in amateur dramatics. In 1952 he enlisted with the RAF to serve his national service at RAF Wattisham Ipswich. But before that he had joined the Conway Youth Club, Conway Rd, where his joinery skills came to the fore, helping to build scenery and props for the club's amateur theatre group.

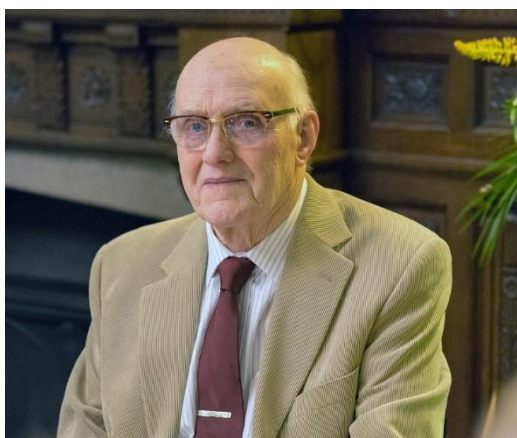


In this photo they have staged the pantomime 'Aladdin', Dennis was not part of the performing cast. We have names for just three of people in the picture. In the back row third from the left, the lady with the crossed arms is Doreen Townsend. The lady in the centre with the hat (Aladdin?) is

Alma. Seated second from the left with raised right arm is Josie. Can you put names to any others? We would love to hear from you if you do.



In this photo Dennis second from the left with his friend Norman Coates on his right. The lady is Mrs Gent wife of the man who started the club during or just after the war. Dennis also made the club's table tennis tables for when Maurice Robinson an all-round sportsman who played for Warwickshire CC came to the club to help them improve their table tennis and badminton. He ran a sports shop in York Road King's Heath. William Guest also came to the club to encourage them to play 7 a-side football. He was a famous professional footballer who played for Birmingham and Blackburn either side of WWII. Dennis John is a city fan to this day.



When Dennis returned from national service duty, he established Runcorn Joinery in Runcorn Rd which became successful enough to be able to take over other companies. In this way, it is joked in his family that he 'bought' Eileen, his wife to be. She came along with one of the companies taken over. He had spoken to her many times on the phone but had not seen her. When he did, well, they have been married for over fifty years.

Dennis Jukes on his 50th wedding anniversary in 2018. We continue to research on the Jukes family's behalf and we particularly interested to hear from people who have

memories from any part of Dennis's timeline. We do have some family names of people who lived in Clifton Rd or Acacia Terrace during the 30s and 40s. They are Breeden, Swain, Greaves, Rollason, Williams, Parker, and Gimson. Jon Rollason born the week before Dennis was a close friend, he became a writer and actor known for Dr Who and the Avengers in the 1960's. If you are related to any of these and have memories to offer, do please get in touch

J F